



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

October 20, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents and
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Sally Vaughn, Ph.D. *Sally*
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: Waiver Request for Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)
Flexibility

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will request U.S. Department of Education (USED) waivers of eleven ESEA requirements established by the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. These waivers will allow flexibility regarding the 2013-2014 timeline for determining Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), implementation of school and district improvement requirements, rural districts, schoolwide programs, support for school improvement, reward schools, Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) improvement plans, the transfer of certain federal funds, use of School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds to support priority schools, and use of 21st Century Community Learning Centers program funds.

In order to apply for and receive the waivers, the MDE must develop a comprehensive request based on four principles: Career- and College-Ready Expectations for All Students; State-Developed Differentiated Recognition, Accountability, and Support; Supporting Effective Instruction and Leadership; and Reducing Duplication and Unnecessary Burden. Information on the available waivers, principles, and submission process for the request can be accessed at <http://www.ed.gov/esea/flexibility>.

The MDE is currently in the process of developing its request on behalf of the schools and districts, in collaboration with shareholders, with the intent to apply for the waivers on November 14, 2011. While this is a tight timeline, we think it is important to submit them by this date (versus mid-February) so districts know as early as possible what flexibility they have and how they will be held accountable.

The waiver request will be made available for public comment online at the MDE website homepage, www.michigan.gov/mde, on November 3, 2011. Notice of public comment will be posted with a link to a survey for the submission of comments. Comments will be due on November 10, 2011.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3324